



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semarie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul
Assistant
Audience: Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice, Ben Werner
Conference Center

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:26 P.M., a quorum was present for remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**

Silva: **absent**

Vice-Chair Semarie: **yes**

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been in existence for a few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing news related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semarie was elected last Saturday, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and the meeting is in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion. Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- Covid cases were going down including in the area
- Warn seniors about scam of people offering to drive people to appointments
- Emphasize that seniors take advantage of the availability of the vaccine
- Ben Werner said that the camp was hosting the Americorps volunteer training site and said they have strict Covid protocol that they will be following

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

"Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Topics include updates on local vaccination resources, instructions on scheduling vaccination appointments over the phone, post-vaccine precautions, and guidelines on how to stay safe between now and when you do receive a vaccination.

Among the general population, only people aged 75 or older may receive a vaccination at this time. If you are currently eligible, it is prudent to schedule your vaccination soon, as demand for vaccination is expected to increase dramatically once other groups of people are made eligible, which will make booking a vaccination appointment substantially more difficult than it is now.

If anyone aged 75 or older still needs to receive a vaccination, a new venue has become available locally to receive a vaccination: By calling the Greenfield Senior Center at 413-775-6411, you will be able to schedule a vaccination at that senior center. A gentleman by the name of Matt will take your information, and if he is unable to provide you with a specific time for a vaccination right away, he will call you back when a vaccination appointment slot becomes available.

Additionally, a vaccination clinic for people aged 75 and older will be occurring later this month at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School. When the exact date of that vaccination clinic is confirmed, appointments will be able to be made through the Massachusetts State website at mass.gov

Massachusetts is still maintaining the phone hotline to help people who are eligible to receive a vaccination who may have difficulty using online resources to schedule a vaccination appointment. The phone system can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 or 877-211-6277 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A third-party website that aggregates available appointment slots among the many vaccination sites in Massachusetts is now available as well. A link to that information is available on the Rowe-ma.gov website, or by clicking here: vaccinatema.com/search

For anyone who has scheduled a vaccination appointment, please remember to book any required second-dose vaccination appointments before leaving the vaccination site. It will be much easier to book an appointment before leaving than to try to book a second dose after the fact.

Although vaccination provide a very high degree of protection from COVID, and people who are vaccinated are almost certain to avoid major illness, there is a small chance that even after being vaccinated you could still catch COVID from someone else, and -- more importantly -- pass on that infection to someone who has not yet been vaccinated.

As such, it's extremely important that everyone -- including people who have been vaccinated -- continue to reduce exposure to others: that means wearing masks that cover both your mouth and nose whenever in public, maintaining distance when around others, minimizing time in indoor public spaces, and whenever possible limiting travel. These measures are meant not just to protect yourself, but to protect those around you.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent."

Thank you, and stay healthy

~Chuck Sokol

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes

Silva: absent

Vice-Chair Semanie: yes

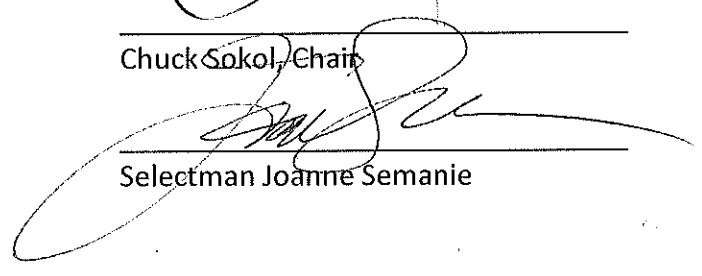
Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *MARCH 4, 2021*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair

Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda February 16, 2021